

POS 4931/LAS4935: Political Theory and Public Affairs

University of Florida

Fall 2022

Instructor:	Cristian Pérez Muñoz
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Office	Anderson 334
Class Hours	Tuesdays (10:40 AM - 11:30 AM), Thursdays (10:40 AM - 12:35 PM)
Classroom	TUR2305
Office Hours	Mondays (10 am–1 pm) (by appointment)

Course Description

What is wrong with informality and the underground economy? On what grounds can states claim Antarctic Territory? Should we be concerned about corruption and clientelism? How can we define the demos of a given political community? Do indigenous peoples have the right to veto the expansion of the oil, mining, and energy business? Should punishment reduction be employed to influence perpetrators to cooperate with the authorities in confronting the problem of disappeared persons in transitional justice contexts? Do peasants have a right to resist expropriation processes? What is wrong, if any, with residential segregation? Is economic growth desirable?

In this class, we will approach these and other normative questions through the methodological and substantive inputs of political theory. We will engage in exercises of applied political theory, in which conceptual and normative analysis will be informed by empirical research. In particular, our focus will be mostly centered on studying pressing issues occurring in Latin America. This regional focus will help us to contextualize and elaborate specific theoretical answers to the problems at hand. Likewise, we will aim to learn from these different contexts and understand their relevance and adaptability with other settings and circumstances.

Course Objectives:

- Learn to identify and analyze complex theoretical arguments
- Apply analytical tools to address controversial issues and make informed choices about them.
- Learn to use the comparative method in political theory

Course Requirements

This course will have three instances of evaluation. Students will be evaluated based on their participation in class, three short (two pages) essays, and a final paper (3000-4000 words long, singled space). The characteristics of each instance of evaluation are explained below.

1. **Participation:** Students are expected to come to class with the readings completed and prepared for discussion. Absence will adversely affect your participation grade. Participation in class discussions will be evaluated in terms of quality and quantity. Those who, for any reason, find it challenging to participate regularly in class can complement their class participation grade by participating in Perusall. Notice, however, that comments on Perusall (no matter the quality and quantity) are not a perfect substitute for oral class participation. Students must not expect a perfect participation grade by only engaging in Perusall. In addition, please notice that to be counted as participation, commentaries on Perusall need to be written during the assignment period (typically within a week). Late comments will not be accepted. Participation will represent 30% of the final grade.
2. **Short essays:** Each student must write three brief essays (two pages, single-spaced, Times New Roman). Essays will address a question provided by the instructor. You may use course materials to elaborate your answer. The deadlines for submission of short essays are: **first (Tuesday, 09/20)** and **second (Tuesday 10/25) and (Tuesday 11/22)**. Note: short essays cannot be submitted beyond these deadlines. They will represent 45 % of the final grade (15 % each)
3. **Final paper:** The final paper will have to be 3000-4000 words long (single spaced, times new Roman 12 or equivalent). The academic paper should analyze one of the normative problems discussed in class, identify alternatives views to address that problem, and evaluate potential solutions. Further details of how to write this assignment will be given to you in class and on the course website. This item will represent the 25 % of the final grade. **Final paper is due on Friday 12/09**

Grade Distribution:

Class participation	30%
Short Essays	45%
Final Paper	25%

Letter Grade Distribution:

>= 94	A	74 - 76	C
90 - 93	A-	70 - 73	C-
87- 89	B+	67 - 69	D+
84 - 86	B	64 - 66	D
80 - 83	B-	60 - 63	D-
77 - 79	C+	<61	F

Important Dates:

- **Short Essays:** First (09/20), Second (10/25), Third (11/22)
- **Final Paper:** Friday 12/10

Course Policies¹

Class Modality

This class will be offered on campus. You will be notified in advance in case we need to move the class to an online setting. However, this will be only in exceptional circumstances (i.e. a global pandemic).

During Class

Unless I explicitly declare so, nothing I say in this class will be my personal opinion on the topics covered. Instead, I will focus on presenting different points of view on the topics discussed. When issuing a subjective opinion on a given issue, students will hear me say something along the lines of "I personally believe," "according to how I see this issue," and so on. In any case, my personal opinions will be announced and infrequent.

I have carefully chosen a manageable number of readings and references that come from academic sources. These viewpoints have been discussed and debated within political science or other academic disciplines and have been collectively judged by experts in that field to be well-argued and rigorous.

While I have chosen a wide range of viewpoints to present to you, it would be impossible to show all viewpoints on all issues. The debate in class will help us to identify, address and evaluate any alternative perspective on the topics covered in class.

We are a diverse group of people, and every one of us has a different opinions. It is crucial to treat your instructor and classmates with respect and kindness during class meetings and activities. For more information on netiquette guidelines, see the [UF Netiquette Guide for Online Courses](#).

Disclaimer

The syllabus is a statement of intent. Please note that the schedule of activities and procedures in this course are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Any change in the syllabus will be communicated to all students in the class. Changes will be posted on Canvas and announced in class.

¹The items with an asterisk(*) are textually copied from [UF Policy on Course Syllabi](#).

Education during COVID-19*

In response to COVID-19, the following recommendations are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit one.ufl.edu for screening and testing and vaccination opportunities.
- If you are sick, stay home. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 to be evaluated.
- Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.

Attendance Policy*

Attendance at all lectures is mandatory and will be registered. A penalty of one point will be subtracted from the final grade for each unexcused absence. Late work is not accepted. Exceptions include documented illness, legal, or civic/university duty situations. If you miss an assignment and have a valid excuse, please email me within the same week to evaluate the situation and eventually arrange a makeup. "The requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies". [Click here to read the university attendance policies.](#)"

Recording*

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A "class lecture" is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To "publish" means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A

student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Student Privacy*

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see the Notification to Students of FERPA Rights.

Software Use*

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Grading Policy*

This course is consistent with current UF grading policies for assigning grade points. For detailed information, visit this [link](#).

Academic Integrity and Honesty*

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment. The Honor Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Honor Code](#). Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Accommodations for Disabilities*

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Online Course Evaluation*

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. [Click here for guid-](#)

ance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner.. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here.

Technical Support*

E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Health and Wellness*

- U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care](#) website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the [Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center](#) website.
- University Police Department: [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

Course Outline

Readings: All the required readings are available in **Canvas**. The following are some recommended readings that can further your understanding on some of the topics we will address in class.

- Julia Driver. 2010. *Ethics: The Fundamentals*. John Wiley and Sons.
- Will Kymlicka. 2002. *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.
- Andrew Cohen. 2015. *Philosophy, ethics, and public policy: An introduction*. Routledge.
- Jonathan Wolff. 2019. *Ethics and public policy: a philosophical inquiry*. Routledge.
- Adrian Blau. ed. 2017. *Methods in Analytical Political Theory*. Cambridge University Press.

Week	Content/Reading assignments
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction: Political theory as a tool for political analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – (Thursday, 08/25). – Wolff, Jonathan. "Method in philosophy and public policy: Applied philosophy versus engaged philosophy." <i>The Routledge Handbook of Ethics and Public Policy</i>. Routledge, 2018. 13-24. – Swift, Adam, and Stuart White. 2008. "Political theory, social science, and real politics." In David Leopold and Marc Stears (edit) <i>Political Theory: Methods and Approaches</i>, Oxford University Press.
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Territory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – (Tuesday, 08/30–Thursday, 09/01) – Anna Stilz. 2011. "Nations, states, and territory." <i>Ethics</i> 121 (3) (2011): 572-601. – Mancilla, Alejandra. 2018. "The moral limits of territorial claims in Antarctica." <i>Ethics and International Affairs</i> 32 (3) (2018): 339–360. – Moore, Margaret. 2021 "Territorial Rights in Unoccupied Places." <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 65.3 (2021): 598-611.

<p>Week 3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional Divergence and Convergence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – (Tuesday, 09/06–Thursday, 09/08) – Joshua Simon. 2014. "The Americas' more perfect unions: New institutional insights from comparative political theory." <i>Perspectives on Politics</i> 12.4 (2014): 808-828. – Paulina Ochoa Espejo. 2012. "Paradoxes of popular sovereignty: A view from Spanish America." <i>The Journal of Politics</i> 74 (4): 1053-1065. – Gabriel Negretto and José Antonio Aguilar Rivera. 2000. "Rethinking the legacy of the liberal state in Latin America: The cases of Argentina (1853–1916) and Mexico (1857–1910)." <i>Journal of Latin American Studies</i> 32 (2): 361–397.
<p>Week 4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiculturalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – (Tuesday, 09/13–Thursday, 09/15) – Juliet Hooker. 2005. "Indigenous inclusion/black exclusion: Race, ethnicity and multicultural citizenship in Latin America." <i>Journal of Latin American Studies</i> 37 (2): 285-310. – Donna Lee Van Cott. 2010. "Indigenous peoples' politics in Latin America." <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i> 13 (2010): 385–405. – Jose Antonio Aguilar Rivera. 2013. "Multiculturalism and Constitutionalism in Latin America." <i>Notre Dame J. Int'l & Comp. L.</i> 4 (2013): 19–44.
<p>Week</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Content/Reading assignments</p>
<p>Week 5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – (Tuesday, 09/20–Thursday, 09/22) – Alisha Holland. 2017. <i>Forbearance as redistribution: The politics of informal welfare in Latin America</i>. Cambridge University Press, 2017. (Chapter 1, pp.12-40) – Richard Epstein.1993. "The Moral and Practical Dilemmas of an Underground Economy Symposium: The Informal Economy". <i>Yale Law Journal</i> 103: 2157–2178? – Diana Bocarejo. 2018. "Thinking with (il) legality: the ethics of living with bonanzas." <i>Current Anthropology</i> 59 (18): 48–59. • First Short Essay due: 09/20)

<p>Week 6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential segregation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – (Tuesday, 09/27–Thursday, 09/29) – Iris Marion Young. "Residential segregation and differentiated citizenship". <i>Citizenship Studies</i>, 3 (2):237–252. – María José Álvarez-Rivadulla. 2007. "Golden ghettos: gated communities and class residential segregation in Montevideo, Uruguay". <i>Environment and Planning</i>, 39(1):47–63. – Bart Van Leeuwen. 2010. "Dealing with urban diversity: Promises and challenges of city life for intercultural citizenship." <i>Political theory</i> 38 (5): 631–657.
<p>Week 7</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corruption and Clientelism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – (Tuesday, 10/04–Thursday, 10/06) – Bo Rothstein. 2014. "What is the opposite of corruption?", <i>Third World Quarterly</i>, 35:5, 737–752, – Emmanuela Ceva and Maria Ferretti. 2017. "Political corruption". <i>Philosophy Compass</i>.12. – Robert Gay. 1998. "Rethinking clientelism: demands, discourses and practices in contemporary Brazil." <i>European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies</i>: 7–24.
<p>Week 8</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immigration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – (Tuesday, 10/11–Thursday, 10/13) – David Miller. 2004. "Immigration: The Case for Limits", in <i>Contemporary Debates in Applied Ethics</i>, ed. Andrew Cohen and Christopher Wellman (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 2004), pp. 193–206 – Chandran Kukathas, "The Case for Open Immigration," in <i>Contemporary Debates in Applied Ethics</i>, ed. Andrew Cohen and Christopher Wellman (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 2004), pp. 207–220 – Juan Espindola. 2021. "Compensatory justice and the wrongs of deportation." <i>Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy</i> (2021): 1-28.

Week	Content/Reading assignments
Week 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic growth and neo-extractivism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – (Tuesday, 10/18–Thursday, 10/20) – Julie L Rose. 2020. "On the value of economic growth." <i>Politics, Philosophy and Economics</i> 19 (2): 128–153. – Maristella Svampa. 2019. <i>Neo-extractivism in Latin America. Socio-environmental Conflicts, the Territorial Turn, and New Political Narratives</i>. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. (Chapter 1, pp. 1-19) – David Plunkett. 2021. "The varieties of idealization and the politics of economic growth: a case study on modality and the methodology of normative political philosophy." <i>Inquiry</i> (2021): 1-39.
Week 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transitional Justice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – (Tuesday, 10/25–Thursday, 10/27) – Jon Elster. 2004. "Moral Dilemmas of Transitional Justice." In <i>Practical Contexts: New Philosophical Essays</i>, edited by Peter Baumann and Monica Betzler, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 295–315 – Juan Espindola. 2021. "Bargaining for the disappeared? Rewarding perpetrators in transitional justice contexts." <i>Journal of Social Philosophy</i> (2021). – Colleen Murphy. 2021. "Judging the justice of the Colombian Final Agreement", in <i>The Colombian Peace Agreement</i>, 141–158 • Second Short Essay due: 10/25
Week 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democratic Innovations and Citizen Participation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – (Tuesday, 11/01–(No class on Thursday, PPE conference)) – Archon Fung and Erik Olin Wright. 2001. "Deepening democracy: Innovations in empowered participatory governance." <i>Politics and Society</i> 29.1 (2001): 5–41. – Thamy Pogrebinschi. 2018 "Deliberative Democracy in Latin America." In <i>The Oxford Handbook of Deliberative Democracy</i> Edited by André Bachtiger, John S. Dryzek, Jane Mansbridge, and Mark E. Warren, pp. 828–841.

Week 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Income <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>(Tuesday, 11/01–Thursday, 11/03)</u> - Hunter, Wendy, and Natasha Borges Sugiyama. "Transforming subjects into citizens: Insights from Brazil's Bolsa Família." <i>Perspectives on Politics</i> 12.4 (2014): 829-845. - Lo Vuolo, Ruben. "Prospects and challenges for the basic income proposal in Latin America." <i>Basic Income Studies</i> 7.1 (2012). - Valverde, Facundo Garcia. "Suspicious Minds in Basic Income and Conditional Cash Transfers." <i>Basic Income Studies</i> (2022).
Week 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>(Tuesday, 11/10–Thursday, 11/17)</u> - Eduardo Gudynas. 2011. "Buen Vivir: today's tomorrow." <i>Development</i> 54 (4): 441–447. - Roy H May Jr. 2017. "Pachasophy: landscape ethics in the Central Andes mountains of South America." <i>Environmental Ethics</i> 39 (3): 301–319. - Unai Villalba. 2013. "Buen Vivir vs Development: a paradigm shift in the Andes?." <i>Third World Quarterly</i> 34 (8): 1427–1442.
Week 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Essay Preparation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>(Tuesday, 11/22) (Thanksgiving, no class on Thursday)</u> - No readings assigned • Third Short Essay due: 11/23
Week 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peasant Movements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>(Tuesday, 11/29–Thursday, 12/01)</u> - James C Scott. 1977. <i>The Moral Economy of the Peasant</i>. Vol. 315. Yale University Press. (Introduction and chapter 1) - Bernardo Mançano Fernandes. 2020. "Peasant Movements in Latin America." <i>Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics</i>. 2020. - James Petras and Henry Veltmeyer. "The peasantry and the state in Latin America: a troubled past, an uncertain future." <i>The Journal of Peasant Studies</i> 29, (3-4): 41–82.
Week 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>(Tuesday, 12/06)</u> - No readings assigned